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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/838,905	04/20/2001	Kenichiro Kobayashi	KIK01 P322	1673

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PRICE HENEVELD COOPER DEWITT & LITTON
695 KENMOOR, S.E.
P O BOX 2567
GRAND RAPIDS, MI 49501

EXAMINER

SUN, XIUQUIN

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2863

DATE MAILED: 06/04/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/838,905

Applicant(s)

KOBAYASHI, KENICHIRO

Examiner

Xiugin Sun

Art Unit

2863

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). ____
- 2) ☒ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) ____ 6) ☐ Other: ____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-2, 6-8 and 12-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rose et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6248994 B1).

Rose et al. teach a method for measuring the amount which an object to be measured has moved in a plane and back-and-forth using a granular speck pattern generated by a reflecting laser beam in non-contact fashion (see abstract, lines 1-6; figs. 1-9; col. 1, lines 27-36; col. 2, lines 25-56; col. 6, lines 15-26 and col. 7, lines 4-9), comprising steps of: irradiating an object to be measured with a laser beam (col. 8, lines 15-67 and col. 9, lines 1-26); optically and directly picking up the granular speck pattern generated by the reflecting laser beam as an index (see figs. 2-9; col. 9, lines 29-32, 64-67; col. 10, lines 1-19, lines 43-54, lines 63-67; col. 11, lines 1-2, lines 30-36, lines 59-63; col. 12, lines 30-39, lines 52-59 and col. 13, lines 6-12); calculating the amount of movement on the basis of movement of the granular speck pattern with respect to said index (col. 13, lines 25-44); and displaying a result of the calculation as a numerical value of the measured amount of movement (col. 14, lines 19-34 and lines 52-67). Rose et al. also teach an apparatus for measuring the amount which an object to be

measured has moved in a plane and back and forth using a granular speck pattern generated by a reflecting laser beam (see abstract), said apparatus comprising: a laser projector to generate a granular speck pattern corresponding to a rough surface of an object to be measured (see fig. 1-9; col. 8, lines 15-67 and col. 9, lines 1-26); a line sensor to directly pick up said granular speck pattern as an index (col. 14, lines 7-19); an A/D converter coupled to said line sensor to convert an analog signal supplied from said line sensor to a digital signal (col. 3, lines 57-58 and col. 13, lines 21-25); a processing unit coupled to the A/D converter to calculate the amount of movement of said object on the basis of movement of the granular speck in said pattern with respect to a pixel interval of said granular speck pattern picked up by said line sensor and represented by said A/D converted signal (col. 14, lines 7-19; col. 14, lines 41-51). The teachings of Rose et al. further include: an electrical circuit coupled to said line sensor for calculating the amount of movement of said object on the basis of movement of the granular speck in said pattern with respect to a pixel interval of said granular speck pattern picked up by said line sensor (col. 2, lines 57-67; col. 3, lines 1-24; col. 4, lines 18-22; col. 14, lines 8-19 and lines 41-51); a laser source for generating a granular speck pattern corresponding to a rough surface of an object to be measured (col. 6, lines 40-49; col. 8, lines 15-67 and col. 9, lines 1-26); a collimated light source for generating a granular speck pattern corresponding to the surface of an object to be measured (col. 8, lines 24-28 and lines 45-52); said collimated light source is a laser (col. 8, lines 17-18).

Rose et al. do not explicitly mention that: processing unit (or a computer) includes a display to display the amount of movement calculated by said processing unit.

It is a common knowledge and well known practice to use a display that is coupled to a processing unit (or a computer) to display the output generated by the processing unit.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to include a display coupled to said processing unit in Rose system in order to measure the amount of movement of an object in non-contact fashion accurately and display the results directly.

3. Claims 3, 9 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rose et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6248994 B1) in view of Omura (JP 404021255 A).

The Rose teaches a method and apparatus that includes the subject matter discussed above except that: said line sensor comprises a tube which is cylindrical; a light shield position in front of said line sensor.

Omura teaches a line image sensor that includes a light shield section in front of said line sensor (see abstract and constitution).

It would have been obvious to include the teachings of Omura light shield section in the Rose system in order to measure the amount of movement of an object in non-contact fashion accurately.

4. Claims 4-5, 10-11 and 16-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of Rose et al. and Omura, and further in view of Kashiwagi (U.S. Pat. No. 5864944).

The Rose and Omura combination teaches a method and apparatus that includes the subject matter discussed above except that: said line sensor comprises a tube which is cylindrical.

Kashiwagi et al. teach a line sensor that includes a tube and said tube is cylindrical (col. 2, lines 3-22 and col. 5, lines 11-16).

It would have been obvious to include the teachings of Kashiwagi line sensor in the Rose and Omura combination in order to measure the amount of movement of an object in non-contact fashion accurately.

Conclusion

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Xiuqin Sun whose telephone number is (703)305-3467. The examiner can normally be reached from 7:00am-4:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Hilten can be reached on (703)308-0719. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703)308-5841 for regular communications and (703)308-5841 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703)308-0956.

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May 31, 2002



**JOHN S. HILTEN
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800**